



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

GEORGE E. ZAHR

CASE NO.: QP5031 US NA

SERIAL NO.: 09/757,457

GROUP ART UNIT: 1711

FILED: JANUARY 9, 2001

EXAMINER: ANA L. WOODWARD

FOR: POLYAMIDE CHAIN EXTENSION
PROCESS AND FUNCTIONALIZED
POLYAMIDES PRODUCED THEREBY

AMENDMENT B

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 as follows:

12. (Twice Amended) A filament, comprising:

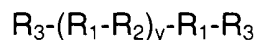
a synthetic melt spun polymer including:

polyamide repeating units and functional amine units (R_1);

polyamide chain extender moieties (R_2), each independently selected from the group consisting of bis-N-acyl bislactam moieties; and

terminal groups (R_3) comprising at least one of a hydrogen atom and a hydroxyl group;

the polymer including chains, each independently having a chemical structure:



wherein y is an integer of 1 – 14; and

the filament has a formic acid relative viscosity of at least about 30.

13. (Amended) The filament of Claim 12, wherein the polyamide repeating units (R_1) each independently, are selected from the group consisting of (i) – $\{CO(CH_2)_k-CONH-(CH_2)_mNH\}_n$, where k and m , each independently, is an integer of 1-12, and n is an integer of 10 – 140, and (ii) – $\{NH(CH_2)_x-CO\}_z$ where x is an integer of 1 – 12 and z is an integer of 20 – 280.

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MAR 11 2003
TOLSON